

Commissioner William Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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99-25

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Tuesday, January 18, 2000  
Re: LPFM (Docket 99-25)

Dear Commissioner Kennard,

I would first like to thank you for your support for LPFM. I also would also like to urge your further action in passing LPFM into law.

In a recent statement, my Congressman stated that if LPFM were allowed, senior citizens and others would loose public service from conventional broadcasters due to interference. Congressman Oxley represents the district where I live. The Congressman's rationale is 180-degrees out of phase with reality.

From a technical point of view; there are many frequencies which could be used for stations in our community with facilities of 10 watts at 30 meters. These stations would not interfere with any local broadcast signals. An LPFM station at this power and height would provide more than ample local coverage. There is no doubt that in larger cities spectrum will be a problem. But just because a station can not be fit into downtown Detroit, should not disqualify communities such as Lima.

Furthermore, Congressman Oxley feels "public service" would be compromised. I am at a loss to understand his statement. I can not find the so-called public service programming on the radio locally, unless he counts Art Bell, automated jukeboxes, weather reports for cities 100 miles away, and newscasts from somewhere other than Lima as public service.

I started in broadcasting in 1968<sup>1</sup>. My perception of public service is the distribution of local news and information. It's discussions of affairs and issues in the community of license. It's a forum for citizens and public officials to educate, and inform people of services and solutions that improve their lifestyle. It's also responding to local emergencies with local information, and warning citizens of potential hazards. Radio broadcasting, through deregulation, has lost its ability to provide even adequate public service.

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One might try to excuse my comments as a localized problem. However, as the Chief Editor and Publisher of a national magazine<sup>2</sup> for the blind, I hear stories like this from people throughout the United States. Docket 80-90, the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and deregulation have hurt broadcasting, and hurt the people they are suppose to serve.

I would invite you to carefully read my comments in regards to Docket 99-25<sup>3</sup>.

I would urge a yes vote for LPFM. However, I would caution the Commission to apply sufficient regulations and controls on LPFM so it does not become an extension of present broadcasting. LPFM must be local. LPFM must serve the public!

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FRV/

Cc: Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
✓ Commissioner Harold Furtchgott-Roth

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<sup>1</sup> My resume is at <http://www2.wcoil.com/~w8hdu/resume>

<sup>2</sup> National Radio Club's "DX Audio Service". Founded 1933. 501C in Louisville KY.

<sup>3</sup> Comments to the F.C.C. re: Docket 99-25 located at: <http://www2.wcoil.com/~w8hdu/9925.html>